

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01182 100638Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /076 W
-----064498 100655Z /12

R 091325Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6367
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL HOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:PINT, SF
SUBJ: SCHOOL BOYCOTTS, DEMONSTRATIONS RUMORED FOR AUGUST 11

REF: (A) PRETORIA 3926, (B) CAPE TOWN 1040 (PRETORIA ONLY),
(C) CAPE TOWN 1179

SUMMARY: RUMORS PERSIST OF PLANNED SCHOOL BOYCOTTS AND
DEMONSTRATIONS IN CAPE TOWN ON AUGUST 11 TO MARK
ANNIVERSARY OF CAPE TOWN RIOTS LAST YEAR. IT IS DOUBTFUL,
HOWEVER, THAT MILITANTS HAVE ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH TO
MOUNT EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINED BOYCOTT. END SUMMARY

1. AS NOTED REF B, FAILURE OF MILITANT BLACK
YOUTH IN CAPE TOWN TO MOUNT DEMONSTRATIONS HERE LAST JUNE
TO COMMEMORATE ANNIVERSARY OF SOWETO RIOTS WAS EXPLAINED
BY SOME OBSERVERS NOTING THAT THE RIOTS HERE BEGAN LAST
YEAR ONLY ON AUGUST 11 AND THIS WAS THEREFORE THE "REAL"
ANNIVERSARY DATE FOR CAPE TOWN. AS AUGUST 11 APPROACHES,
RUMORS OF PLANNED SCHOOL BOYCOTTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE
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INCREASED. SOME ADULT RESIDENTS OF BLACK TOWNSHIPS
HAVE ADVISED CANCELLING MEETINGS IN THE TOWNSHIPS
PLANNED BY DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS(E.G. THE WOMEN'S
MOVEMENT) DURING THAT PERIOD.

2. A SOURCE WITH CLOSE TIES TO MILITANT STUDENT
ELEMENT CONFIRMED IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFF,

HOWEVER, THAT MILITANTS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY AFFECTED BY ARRESTS, DETENTIONS AND DEPARTURES LAST YEAR AND EARLY THIS YEAR OF LARGE ELEMENT OF ITS LEADERSHIP, WHICH IN ANY CASE WAS NEVER VERY NUMEROUS. MOREOVER, HE SAID THERE IS SIGNIFICANT GROUP OF "MODERATES" SUPPORTED BY TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS (SOME OF WHOM HE CLAIMS HAVE BEEN "BOUGHT" BY SAG) WHO WILL TRY HARD TO PREVENT ANY PROTEST ACTIVITY. NONETHELESS, EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO MOUNT BOYCOTT AND STREET DEMONSTRATIONS BEGINNING AUGUST 11. ADMITTING THAT SUCCESS PROBLEMATIC AT BEST, SOURCE CLAIMED THAT IF ONLY ONE SCHOOL GOES OUT, OTHERS WILL FOLLOW. MILITANTS ALSO HOPE THAT IF ONE OR MORE BLACK SCHOOLS GO OUT THEY WILL BE JOINED BY AT LEAST SOME OF THE NUMERICALLY MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT "COLORED" SCHOOLS.

3. VARIETY OF SOURCES REPORT THAT POLICE HAVE INSTITUTED PREVENTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING GREATLY INCREASED RANDOM DETENTION AND QUESTIONING OF TOWNSHIP STUDENTS AND STEPPED UP POLICE PATROLS IN THE AREA.

4. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT MILITANTS' ABILITY TO MOUNT SUCCESSFUL PROTEST ACTIVITY HERE HAS BEEN GREATLY WEAKENED. HOWEVER, EMOTIONS IN TOWNSHIPS, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUTH, REMAIN VOLATILE AND ANY INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE COULD SPARK OFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RENEWED PROTESTS. A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN, PRIVATELY, THAT CURRENT SAG MOVE AGAINST SQUATTERS (REF C) MIGHT PROVIDE JUST SUCH A CATALYST.WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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